

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PBOR PDEV IS XF
SUBJ: UPDATE ON SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IN THE GAZA STRIP AND
RAFAH APPROACHES

REFS: (A) TEL AVIV 3535, (B) TEL AVIV 6464

1. SUMMARY: POLOFFS FEIFER AND KULICK TOURED GAZA STRIP
AND NORTHERN SINAI AUGUST 10. THEY NOTED ONGOING SETTLEMENT
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT KATIF B IN GAZA STRIP; AT PRIEL,
TALMEI YOSEF AND AVSHALOM CENTER IN THE RAFAH APPROACHES;
AND AT THE TOWN OF YAMIT, ALTHOUGH AT NO SITE COULD LEVEL OF
ACTIVITY BE DESCRIBED AS "INTENSE." THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE
OF NEW SETTLEMENTS HAVING BEEN BEGUN SINCE "FREEZE" IMPOSED
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FEB. 28. END SUMMARY

2. AT KATIF B, ONE KM SOUTHWEST OF NETZER HAZANI,
POLOFFS COUNTED 40 HOUSES NEARING COMPLETION. HOMES
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR OCCUPANCY WITHIN SEVERAL MONTHS.
FOUR PIECES OF EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT WERE CLEARING
LAND NORTHWEST OF NETZER HAZANI, APPARENTLY FOR ADDI-

TIONAL HOT HOUSES. (NOTE: INFORMATION IN PARAS. 3 AND 4 OF REF. A WAS INCORRECT. SITE IDENTIFIED AS KATIF C IN PARA. 4 TURNS OUT, IN FACT, TO BE KATIF B. SITE IDENTIFIED AS KATIF B IN PARA. 3 HAS NOW BEEN FLATTENED OUT AND MAY BE USED FOR EXTENSION OF NETZER HAZANI. ACTUAL SITE OF KATIF C WILL APPARENTLY BE SOUTHWEST OF KATIF B AND, ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL RAVID OF JEWISH AGENCY SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT, LAND-CLEARING OPERATIONS SHOULD BEGIN THERE BY THE END OF THE MONTH. TO RECAP: KATIF B HAS 40 HOUSES NEARING COMPLETION; KATIF C IS STILL ON THE DRAWING BOARD.)

3. WORK IS CONTINUING AT A LEISURELY PACE AT PRIEL AND TALMEI YOSEF, 3-4 KMS WEST OF NETIV HA'ASARA. AT TALMEI YOSEF 20 DWELLINGS AND 2 ROWS OF HOT HOUSES ARE NOW NEARING COMPLETION. SEVERAL ADDITIONAL HOT HOUSES ARE IN VARYING STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION. APPROXIMATELY THE SAME NUMBER OF SLIGHTLY LARGER HOMES APPEAR NEARLY COMPLETE AT PRIEL; VIRTUALLY NO SIGNS OF ANY ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION. AT AVSHALOM CENTER 20 NEW HOUSES APPEAR ALMOST READY FOR OCCUPANCY. IN ADDITION, ABOUT 20 PRE-FABRICATED UNITS HAVE APPEARED, PERHAPS INDICATING THE PRESENCE OF A NUCLEUS FOR ONE OF THE PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED NEW SETTLEMENTS ON WHICH WORK HAS BEEN HALTED.

4. AT YAMIT, THE TOWN APPEARED PROSPEROUS, WITH SEVERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOZEN APARTMENT UNITS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. YAMIT APPEARS TO BE TURNING INTO SOMETHING OF A TOURIST ATTRACTION. ITS BEACH WAS THROGGED AND THE RESTAURANT ADJACENT TO IT APPEARED TO BE THRIVING.

5. EAST AND WEST OF HARUVIT, THE "AGRICULTURAL OBSERVATION POSTS" SET UP BY SHARON IN FEBRUARY ARE STILL LYING FALLOW AND NOT SO MUCH AS A BEDOUN WATCHMAN WAS TO BE FOUND. SAND HAS DRIFTED OVER THE ROADS LEADING TO THEM AND CLEARLY NO ONE HAD VISITED THE SITES IN SOME TIME.

6. COMMENT: ONE COULD FIND NO SENSE OF URGENCY CONCERNING ANY SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IN THIS REGION. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, IF THIS FACT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, THAT THE SO-CALLED FREEZE IN CONSTRUCTION APPLIES ONLY TO SINAI PROPER AND NOT TO THE GAZA STRIP. DESPITE THIS, NO NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE GAZA STRIP HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE FREEZE WENT INTO EFFECT, AT LEAST UNTIL GROUNDWORK BEGINS AT KATIF C LATER THIS MONTH. LEWIS

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